

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 01053 112203Z

71

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POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULAR POSTS IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, SCUL, CA

SUBJECT: GOC INTRODUCES BILL TO PREVENT EXPANSION OF
U.S. FOOTBALL LEAGUES INTO CANADA

1. HEALTH AND WELFARE MINISTER MARC LALONDE
INTRODUCED LEGISLATION IN PARLIAMENT APRIL 10
WHICH WOULD PROHIBIT THE OPERATION OF FOREIGN
FOOTBALL LEAGUES IN CANADA AND LIMIT THE NUMBER
OF FOREIGN PLAYERS ON CANADIAN FOOTBALL TEAMS.
THE BILL WOULD ALSO PREVENT EXPANSION OF THE
CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (CFL) ABROAD (I.E.,
INTO THE U.S.).

2. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PROPOSED BILL ARE AS
FOLLOWS:

(A) NO FOOTBALL LEAGUE IN CANADA MAY GRANT
A FRANCHISE TO A FOREIGN COUNTRY OR PERMIT ONE
OF ITS TEAMS TO PLAY ABROAD, EXCEPT IN
EXHIBITION GAMES.

(B) FOREIGN FOOTBALL LEAGUE TEAMS OR
PLAYERS MAY NOT PLAY IN CANADA, EXCEPT IN
EXHIBITION GAMES.

(C) UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1974, THE
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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 01053 112203Z

NUMBER OF "IMPORTED" PALYERS ON A CANADIAN

FOOTBALL TEAM MAY NOT EXCEED 15 OR
45 PERCENT OF THE ROSTER, WHICHEVER IS LESS.
AFTER DECEMBER 31, 1974, THE NUMBER OF IMPORTED
PLAYERS MAY NOT EXCEED 15 OR 40 PERCENT OF
THE TEAM ROSTER, WHICHEVER IS LESS.

3. CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (CFL) RULES
ALREADY SPECIFY THAT 32-MAN LEAGUE TEAMS MAY
INCLUDE NO MORE THAN 15 IMPORTED PLAYERS.

4. AN APRIL 10 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
WELFARE NEWS RELEASE NOTED THAT THE BILL IS
CONSISTENT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT MEASURES
TO PRESERVE A CANADIAN IDENTITY IN BANKING,
ARTS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND BUSINESS.
ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, LALONDE SAID
GOC WILL PUT HIGH PRIORITY ON THE BILL,
AND AN EARLY DEBATE CAN BE EXPECTED AFTER EASTER.

5. COMMENT: MEDIA ATTENTION TO ISSUE,
NOW JOINED BY THIS PROPOSED LEGISLATION,
HAS BEEN HEAVY, PARTICULARLY SINCE RECENT
TORONTO VISIT AND SIGNING UP WITH NORTHMENT OF
MIAMI DOLPHINS' CSONKA, KICK AND WARFIELD.
APRIL 4 POLL OF 52 OTTAWANS INTERVIEWED AT
RANDOM BY CITIZEN REPORTERS INDICATED TWO
TO ONE SENTIMENT FAVORING GOC POLICY TO
EXCLUDE WORLD FOOTBALL LEAGUE FROM CANADA.
APRIL 11 PRESS CAUTIONS TWO THINGS REMAIN
TO BE SEEN: WHETHER LEGISLATION WILL PASS
PARLIAMENT AND, IF IT DOES, WHETHER IT IS
CONSTITUTIONAL.

6. TEXT OF PROPOSED BILL, NEWS RELEASE,
AND BACKGROUND PAPERS ISSUED BY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE BEING
POUCHED TO EUR/CAN - KRUSE.
PORTER

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